

but not a two-thirds majority. We have got a majority in the Senate but not 60 votes to override a filibuster attempt, nor a two-thirds majority to override a veto. So the President can use his veto pen to stop changes here in Congress that he opposes.

What kind of changes? Changes like changes in the regulations of this country. When you hear this talk tonight about, well, we are going to have dirty water and dirty air and dirty food as a result of what we are proposing, remember, this House voted for changes in the way regulations are made in those areas, to require a simple cost-benefit analysis. That is all that is in the CR, just the regulatory reform this House voted upon.

You would think that there was something awful about the Congress trying to reform the Medicare Program, but the President himself said it has to get done. His trustees said if you do not do it in 7 years, your parents and my parents will not have a Medicare Program to depend upon because it is going bankrupt.

You would think that there would be an interest in this House, in this Chamber and the other Chamber, to come to some kind of conclusion on a good Medicare reform. We have tried to deliver one, and this House passed one, but we do not have two-thirds to get it through. We do not have 60 votes to get it past a filibuster in the Senate, and so the red pen is being waved tonight.

There is a big difference in substance, not much difference in rhetoric but a big difference in substance. Hopefully in the next few days those differences can be resolved and we can get about the business of reforming this country and bringing a balanced budget for our future and our children.

BALANCING THE BUDGET

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Pennsylvania [Mr. Fox] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. FOX of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I think it is important to take stock at this time, while we have a lot of focus on what the Congress is trying to do, to look at where we have come from in this first session of the 104th Congress.

We passed the regulatory reform that Congressman TAUZIN was speaking of. We passed the line-item veto to take care of eliminating the pork-barrel legislation and excessive spending. We have passed the prohibition of unfunded mandates so that our local governments will not have items we passed back to the local government without the funding that goes with it.

We have already passed \$90 billion in deficit reduction, \$190 billion in spending reductions, and now we have the possibility, if the President agrees, to balance the budget, something that every other government has to do, every family has to do. The State government has to balance its budget,

county governments, school governments.

The economic experts, Mr. Speaker, have told us that if we can balance the budget so we do not have to spend so much of the tax dollars to pay for the debt, we will have a reduction of mortgage payments for our fellow Americans, we will reduce the car payments, we will reduce the college payments. We will be able to make sure that our goal will be that we are taking care of essential services for people and not the Government waste and fraud that we have seen that the Federal Government has had for years.

We will also see with our tax reform proposals, if they get adopted again and signed into law by the President, a \$500 per child tax credit. We will have the new IRA programs with \$2,000 for individuals, \$4,000 for a couple. We will roll back that unfair 1993 Social Security tax on our senior citizens. We will give our seniors the opportunity to make more than \$11,280 who are under 70 without having a bite out of the Social Security. Under our new proposal, it will be up to \$30,000 a year.

We will also have capital gains tax reductions for individuals of 19 percent, 25 percent for businesses. This will allow us to have new jobs, expansion of businesses, and also increase savings. Adoption tax credit is included within this proposal, as well as an elder care tax credit.

We are on our way, Mr. Speaker, with many new reforms in this 104th Congress, but the balanced budget awaits the President's signature. He has said he is committed to a balanced budget. Both sides of the aisle have supported the concept of a balanced budget. It works in business. It works in our families. It can work for the country. But we need the President to come to the table to work with our congressional leadership in the House and Senate in a bipartisan fashion. If we do that, we are going to help our senior citizens, we are going to help our working families, and we are going to help our children. We can make a difference. We ask for the President to come to the table and help us make it happen.

EDUCATION: AN ISSUE WHICH UNITES US

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of May 12, 1995, the gentleman from New York [Mr. OWENS] is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, we are at a critical moment in the life of the American democracy. I think it would be helpful if we lower our voices and come together on an issue which unites us. Education is that issue.

On this Wednesday, the day after tomorrow, National Education Funding Support Day has been proclaimed. It is important to note at this point that education has always been an issue that has received bipartisan support.

Education is an investment. It has always been recognized by both Democrats and Republicans as an investment. Only this year has Republican extremism and recklessness led to a division that has critically injured the support for education in the Congress.

On our National Education Funding Support Day, we hope that we can reach out to both sides, both Republicans and Democrats. We hope that we can get the American people to understand what is at stake in the Federal support for education.

I think to have something now which leads us to lower our voices and come together would be a good thing. Despite all of the heated rhetoric of the next few days, and despite the fact that there are real issues on the table and very important decisions to be made, I think it would be good if we sort out something that we can agree on, and education is the one thing in the past that we have agreed on.

It is time for some effort to calm the waters. Like the gentlewoman from Colorado [Mrs. SCHROEDER], I happened to hear part of the GOPAC celebration. It was on C-SPAN this morning. I could not avoid it. It was on a respectable media outlet, and I heard part of Rush Limbaugh's speech to the GOPAC audience here in Washington.

He was addressing a crowd of people who seemed to need at this time some therapy, so Rush the jester, he is the Speaker's jester, became Rush the therapist. It was very interesting to watch how he was calming the fears of the GOPAC crowd that the American people have misunderstood them. He kept telling them do not be anxious, do not be bitter; the American people are going to understand you sooner or later.

The fact that the Republican extremism policies have taken a great plunge in the polls, a Wall Street Journal poll shows that more than 60 percent want the President to veto the Republican budget, and more than 70 percent are against the Medicare cuts, has led to some serious soul-searching among Republicans. So Rush Limbaugh was there spreading his arms to calm down Republican fears.

I thought that was very interesting. Everybody needs something at this point to calm them down, and certainly to come together on an issue like education I think would have a calming influence.

Mr. ROEMER. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. OWENS. I yield to the gentleman from Indiana.

Mr. ROEMER. Mr. Speaker, I would just say to the gentleman that he is talking about some of the fears and some of the concerns that the American people have at this point in time. He talked about some of the objections to cuts in very, very important programs that are helpful to senior citizens and students that are trying to get back to school.

This is not a poll from a Democratic pollster. It is not a poll from the President's White House. It is a CNN/USA Today poll that recently showed that 75 percent of the American people are against the tragic cuts in the Medicare Program, and 74 percent of the American people are against the cuts in the student loan program. This is not political information, not driven by pollsters from our party or pollsters from the other side of the aisle. This is a poll taken directly by an objective, very reliable and very respected firm.

What we are saying, and I serve on the Committee on Economic and Educational Opportunities with the distinguished gentleman from New York, is that we have always agreed that education can and should be an investment for our workers, for our senior citizens, going back to school to learn more and contribute to the economy when they are not making enough money from Social Security or getting help from Medicare, from workers that have been on the assembly line doing the same thing for 20 years, screwing a screw into a door, and now that assembly line has changed dramatically, and they are working on a computer and working in teams to create a better quality product.

□ 2045

This is no time to be cutting off their loans for college education, whether they are 55 years old or 25 years old. I just wanted to point out the two things that I very much agree with the gentleman from New York, that education should be bipartisan, and that, second, the American people are against these education cuts at 74 percent of the people against these cuts.

Mr. OWENS. I thank the gentleman very much. He has made a very compact, well-focused statement which would make it unnecessary for me to say a great deal of what I was going to say. The American people have shown consistently over the years that education is a high priority.

It is interesting now that I think it is clear that health care is the first priority but education is a close parallel, almost the second priority, almost a parallel priority of the American people. So education should not be forgotten in this great debate.

Education Funding Support Day, November 15, day after tomorrow, is designed to have the American people reinforce what they have already shown in the polls. They keep stating over and over again, in poll after poll, that education is a high priority. Yet the public officials who make the decisions keep cutting education. At the city level in New York, over the last few years, we have lost \$2 billion. New York is a system which serves a million students. We have lost \$2 billion over the last 5 years in education funding at a time when more children have come into the system. The State has now cut the State aid for New York City a great deal, and, of course, at the

Federal level we had \$4 billion of cuts recently proposed by the Republican budget.

Republican extremism and recklessness is being ratcheted upward at a time when there is no war, no real crisis; a catastrophe is being manufactured.

It is not the President who is being blackmailed, as we have heard over and over again. It is the American people who are being blackmailed. The children are being blackmailed. The students are being blackmailed.

Let us pause for a moment to reconsider what is happening. I hope the Republicans will join the Democrats in supporting National Education Funding Support Day and try to refocus on the bipartisan effort we have made over the years on education.

In the days before Republican extremism, education was a unifying issue, even more so than defense. I have seen many votes on the floor of this house where a greater proportion of the body voted for education than voted for defense, which was also a unifying issue. But we had more votes on education bills. Many of the authorizing bills for education on this floor have received almost unanimous approval.

We have gone through a process at the committee level where at the committee level there was a great debate, in the conferences there was a great debate. In fact, some of our conferences have gone on for several weeks. Many committee markups have gone on for days. So we have had great debates on education, with each side, of course, offering varied opinions, and there are some differences. In the end, both Republicans and Democrats came together on education, and we need to try to get back to that. We could assert ourselves in the next few days and reach some kind of agreement to communicate to the President that both parties agree that we should rescind that \$4 billion in education cuts and deal with making cuts somewhere else to facilitate moving matters forward.

In the days before Republican extremism, Education was a unifying issue, even more so than defense. Under Republican Reagan, under Republican Bush, we had major steps taken toward the offering of guidance by the Federal Government in the area of education. Education reform was taken on by the Federal Government as a major responsibility. Republican Ronald Reagan had the commission to publish the report, "A Nation at Risk," and he launched the effort. Bush followed with America 2000 and the six goals that were set forth at the Governors' conference in Virginia. President Clinton attended that conference, where the Governors set forth the six goals for education, and President Clinton has steadfastly enforced those goals.

President Clinton has taken America 2000 that was put forward by Bush and launched Education 2000, which, in many ways, has the same basic founda-

tion. So we have a continuation of bipartisan support for education.

On November 15, day after tomorrow, we want to reemphasize that and let the American people know that we continue to have this major goal of pushing education forward as a bipartisan concern.

Republican extremism wrecked the bipartisan support for education this time. This is at a time, unfortunately, where education is needed more than ever before.

As I have said many times before, our economy, our society is at a critical transition period. Our society is now in a period where the economy is booming, Wall Street is booming, the stock market is booming, profits are higher than they have been for a long, long time. And yet, on the other hand, people are losing jobs through downsizing and streamlining.

The American wages have suffered a dramatic decline over the last two decades, the last 20 years. So we are in a transition period, a period unlike any that we have ever experienced before. It is necessary more than ever that we step forward with a new investment in education. Not less should be invested in education, but we should be investing more in education. We should invest more at this particular period because we are making a transition where education and greater training will be needed.

You know, I think last night, whenever this GOPAC celebration was held, I heard it this morning on C-SPAN, Rush Limbaugh kept saying that if you cannot make it in America, it is your fault; you know, nobody should ask for help. If you cannot make it in America, it is really your fault. It is very strange that Rush Limbaugh, a talk show host who is dependent on the airwaves, radio and television, which are a Government, you know, they are government-facilitated outlets, you know, he would not be a millionaire and a superstar if there were no FCC, if there were no Federal Communications Commission, a Government body which regulates and helps to nurture the whole broadcast industry from its inception to the present. He would not be there. Rush Limbaugh should send a "thank you" letter to the FCC every day.

The U.S. Navy helped perfect radio and helped perfect the kind of things that made it necessary for radio to move from radio to television, the orderly transition, the development of a whole industry. The broadcast industry was not charged any money every time they used the airwaves. Yet the broadcast industry was not unlimited, not every American could gain access to the broadcast industry, not every American could be a talk show host, because the broadcast airwaves are owned by certain companies. There are a limited number. If we did not have a Government which regulated that limited number, then you would have chaos and nobody would be able to have signals that got through.

So, you know, the FCC, the U.S. Navy, the space program, and all of the Government research that went on with radar and various defense industries that made it possible to develop, you know, the compact kind of technology that allows you to have transistors and to do the marvelous things we do with television sets and with radio and all the things that facilitate cable television and all the things that are going on now which make people like Rush Limbaugh rich, all of them are maintained by a society and a Government that, if it did not exist and did not carry out these functions, the opportunity would not be there for Rush Limbaugh and his kind.

The illogical rationalization that is going on, the monstrous excuse that Republican extremists are making is that we need to inflict these cruel and unusual budget cuts, these measures which go after everything from Medicare, Medicaid, to education, we need to inflict these measures on the elderly, on children and on students in order to save future children from debts.

Men and women who have no compassion for living, breathing Americans want us to believe that they have great compassion for the children of the future, they have compassion for posterity. They want to trade the compassion of today that requires a few sacrifices by the rich for the cheap abstract compassion of the distant future, have compassion for posterity, have compassion for the children of the future, but do not have compassion for the living, breathing, elderly who are sick and need health care today, do not have compassion for the students who want an opportunity to get through school, to have decent lunches so that they are not hungry and can learn, the students who want to get through college on Pell grants and student loans; do not have any compassion for them. Let us think about the children of the future, the children to come, not the children of today; let us think about the students of the future, students to come, not the children of today.

Compassion is a concern, and it is one concern we should always bear in mind. We should always be concerned with compassion. I think compassion might be interpreted as a willingness to share the benefits of society with everybody in the society because we recognize that all human life is sacred. Merely by being born, all human beings deserve compassion. Medicare and Medicaid are expressions of compassion, very important expressions of compassion. The elderly and the children probably deserve the most compassion in our society. So compassion is important.

Compassion is a basic value of the American majority. I think most people in America have compassion. They want their Government to reflect a concern with compassion. They want their decisionmakers, their congressmen as well as their State legislators and their local legislators to always

move in ways that show that they care about people.

The great majority of the American people are caring people. There is a caring majority out there, and the caring majority has reflected its sentiments. They have aroused themselves, and they are being felt in the public opinion polls. They are showing through the polls that they do not care for this extremism. They want it stopped. It is not consistent with American compassion. It is not consistent with the caring majority.

But while I am very concerned about compassion, I am talking about education today, and education is an investment. It is not a matter of compassion. Support for education programs does not represent compassion. Support for education programs represents a commonsense investment in the future of America. Support for education means you care about young people being able to get an opportunity so they can help themselves. You care about young people being able to get an opportunity so they will keep our economy going. If young people are not out there working in our economy, they will not produce the taxes that we need, they will not produce the money to fund the social security fund. It is working young people in the American economy who make the economy go.

I read in the Wall Street Journal today that China is leaping forward at a far more rapid rate than anybody ever predicted. China, China, when I was in school, I remember in the geography books always that phrase, "China is a backward country." The implication was that Chinese are backward people; inevitably China will always be at the bottom of the heap; all those people there, they gave the impression that they will never do anything but trip all over themselves and cause chaos and China will never be a force in the world.

Well, now, China may be bidding to become the third largest economy in the world merely by the fact that they exist, a billion people. You know, a billion people just selling things back and forth to each other creates quite an economy.

The Chinese suddenly have leaped into the export market. This Wall Street Journal article said the Chinese may surpass the Japanese in terms of exports to America soon and that the Chinese are seeking to protect their position in the world through the GATT treaty. They know that, as they become more and more of an export power, they are going to be the victims of attempts at restrictions of trade from China, so they are getting ready.

The article continued to say it surprised everybody because the Chinese are not a high technology society in the same sense as Japan or West Germany, France, a lot of the other industrialized societies. China is leaping forward partially because of its tremendous organization of the one greatest resource it does have, and the greatest

resource the Chinese have is people. Human beings are their greatest resources.

Whatever you may say about the totalitarian government of China, they have invested in education. They know that good schools are a great investment. They have made an investment in education.

□ 2100

They have human beings who are well organized and who, despite the fact that they may have a technological disadvantage, are able to produce a great deal because of the fact that they are well-organized, well-trained, well-focused.

So the Chinese, who were called backwards when I was in the third grade, are going to leap forward as a major world economy, and they are going to dislocate children in our economy. The children in our economy who are going to be adults, if they do not have a great deal of training, they cannot stay way ahead of the Chinese in technology, and they lose, because our policies are such that most of what is being exported from China to America is being financed by American companies.

The Chinese are getting rich off of the American Fortune 500 corporations, who make contracts for them to make goods at very low cost that they then bring back to our economy and sell. So pretty soon we are going to wipe out this great consumer market that we have created over the years by having fair policies, by having strong labor unions, by having a situation that generated a massive number of people who have a lot of money, enough money to be able to buy consumer products in large quantities.

We are destroying the great engine that has driven the free world economy for the last 50 years. We are going to destroy American consumers by not educating them properly and by having trade policies that allow our economy to be invaded by a country that has seen the benefits of educating their population and taken advantage of all the loopholes in the international trade policies.

In the midst of the storm that is going to rage for the next few days, I hope no more than a few days, but maybe weeks, we would like for there to be one dry spot. We would like for there to be one shaft of bipartisan light. We would like for education to return to be understood to be the core of our prosperity. Education must remain at the core of our prosperity. We must understand that education is at the core of our prosperity. We must act that way. We must understand that education is the most practical investment that we can make in America.

We cannot afford to go forward and continue the bipartisan bickering and smother everything. Let us return at least to an understanding that health care, the American people have ranked health care as one of those top priorities, and education has been ranked as

another tomorrow priority, almost equal to health care.

So in the next few days, I hope that the President and the Republican-controlled Congress will stop and think seriously about what is going on and say that, look, health care should come first, education should come second, and then let us take a look at everything else if you want to balance the budget. And let us get off this extreme drive, this extreme, dogmatic notion that you have to balance the budget in 7 years.

Those who want to balance the budget, we ought to be able to reason with them and say 10 years instead of 7 years, and maybe we should lock in the law so there could be no reneging on that 10 years. But 10 years to balance the budget would be a better approach, a less extreme approach. It would not require that we throw education overboard as an investment. It would not require that we throw large numbers of senior citizens overboard in their life and death situations day-in and day-out. We do not have to do things in an extreme and mean way. We could do it in a more rational way over a longer period of time and achieve the same objective.

So we are at a critical moment in the life of American democracy. We are at a critical moment, and I think that the proclamation of National Education Funding Support Day by an organization which I helped to fund, the National Commission for African-American Education, took the lead in proclaiming that November 15 would be National Education Funding Support Day. November 15 happens to be in the middle of American Education Week, so we are following a tradition. A lot of different school boards and school systems around the country have open school week during this time. So it is an appropriate time to try to link up with what is happening in education in the localities with what is happening in Washington.

The Federal Government is responsible for only a small portion of the total American education budget. We only supply about 7 percent. It went up as high as 8 percent at one time. But we only supply about 7 percent of the total education budget. Local governments and State governments supply the rest. And it is probably going to be much that same way for a long time. I really think the Federal Government should be more involved. We should be more like the other industrialized nations. All other industrialized nations have a greater participation in education by their central governments than the United States of America.

China has a greater participation, and they have taken advantage of the use of education to turn their population into an asset. All other nations, the nations of Asia, the Asian rim that is bursting with economic activity, a great investment has been made by Singapore. A great investment has been made by Taiwan.

When I was in Taiwan you saw students going to school at all hours of the night. Their schools operated around the clock. They had computers that they were using to train students. Those computers got no rest. They had shifts of students who were going to school around the clock to take advantage of the equipment and the space that they had. They understood the value of investment in education.

We should lower our voices and get our senses together and look at the world with practical eyes. We want compassion, but in addition to compassion, there is just common sense and survival that is at stake here.

Education is a matter of survival. Education has to be moved up to a place in the national security pantheon. Education may be far more important than weapon systems that we are spending great amounts of money on.

Expenditures for education would be far more productive than further expenditures on the *Seawolf* submarine. Expenditures for education would be much more productive than expenditures we are undertaking for the F-22 fighter plane manufactured in Speaker GINGRICH's district in Marietta, GA. They would certainly be far more productive than the CIA expenditures that we continue.

We continue to expend at least \$28 billion for the CIA. That is the conservative figure, because we do not know the real figure. At least \$28 billion per year is being spent for the CIA. That is a great waste. Some of that money is being wasted. If you just cut the CIA by 10 percent a year, \$2.8 billion for the next 5 years, you would generate a great amount of money that could be applied to education.

Education is suffering. You can balance the budget and not hurt your scheme of things by just taking the money from the defunct, dangerous CIA, and moving it over to education.

The CIA is a dangerous institution. I thought it was very interesting that a great deal of furor was generated by the Secretary of Energy. Mrs. O'Leary, a great deal of furor was generated when it was found that she had misspent money on a study which studied the media, newspapers and journalists, and studied how they covered her agency. I agree, it is a great waste of money. I agree that she certainly should be chastised. I agree that certainly some steps should be taken to deal with the people who came up with that bright idea.

However, I found it very interesting that immediately there was a loud cry for her dismissal. Yet the CIA found a slush fund just a few months ago, the CIA found a slush fund, a petty cash fund that nobody knew about, of \$1.5 billion, at least. I am told by somebody who knows that it was more than that. They could not tell me exactly how much. A petty cash fund of \$1.5 billion was discovered at the CIA, and the director of the CIA said that he did not

know about it. It has existed for some time because it takes time to build up a petty cash slush fund that nobody is really accountable for of \$1.5 billion. And yet nobody called for any dismissal of anybody. I did not hear anybody say the CIA director ought to be fired. I did not hear anybody say that some top people at the CIA, at least the bookkeeper, ought to be fired. I do not know if anybody got fired as a result of the discovery of a \$1.5 billion-plus slush fund.

That is surprising, and it is something the American people with their common sense ought to take a close look at. Where is the money being wasted in our government? The money we need to invest in education, where is it? I can find it for you. I can find it for you. \$1.5 billion in the CIA slush fund, we are off to a good beginning.

A little while before that we discovered that the CIA had in process the building of a building which cost almost \$400 million. A building, a facility, is being constructed near the Dulles Airport by the CIA, and nobody knew about it. The members of the Intelligence Committee on Oversight here in the House of Representatives said they did not know about it. The Members of the Committee on Oversight in the Senate said they did not know about it.

How do you construct a \$400 million building, \$370 million-some to be exact, how do you construct a building that costs that much money near Dulles Airport and nobody in the government who has oversight responsibility for the CIA knows about it? And when you find that kind of mistake, why do they not call for somebody to be fired? Who got fired? Who got fired?

We recall that Aldrich Ames was discovered to be a Soviet agent. Aldrich Ames was not a small guy down the line. Aldrich Ames was in charge of the American espionage operation in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union. He was in charge.

He had an interesting history. His father had been in the CIA before, and he had risen through the ranks, although people always wondered about the fact he was not very bright. They wondered about the fact that he did drink too much. They wondered about the fact he broke various rules.

He used the CIA safe houses for fornication regularly. He got away with all this. Then he had a lavish lifestyle. And the CIA makes a good salary. They are not secret. I think that you can find out what the salaries of most CIA agents are, but you cannot find out what the expense accounts are.

At any rate, the expense account plus the salary of Aldrich Ames could not have supported his standard of living. He drove expensive cars, he lived in elaborate houses, he seemed to have all the money he needed all the time. All of this went on for over 10 years. Agents died who were in the employ of the CIA. Information was compromised.

Recently the CIA in its damage control mode has released a few more facts about the damage done by Aldrich Ames. We now hear that information fed to three presidents through the channels that Aldrich Ames was responsible for was compromised information; that much of the Reagan buildup and much of the Bush buildup of defense was guided by information the Soviet Union was feeding through its bogus agents working for the United States into our decisionmaking process.

Yet, when Aldrich Ames was discovered, nobody called for the firing of the CIA Director. When the investigation was conducted and the internal report was issued, the director of the CIA at that time did not recommend the firing of a single person. It is true there was a great outcry and he finally had to resign, the Director of the CIA at that time walked away, but there was no outcry in the press, there was no outcry in Congress, for the firing of anybody.

This is the kind of America we are into. Ladies and gentlemen in America with their common sense, look under their magnifying glass of just plain common sense at what is going on here. What is going on here is we are about to have a great showdown on the budget and the appropriations process. We are about to have a showdown. And yet we have all these outrageous situations that exist, and they are not on the table for discussion. Nobody is discussing cuts in the CIA. Nobody is discussing cuts of the F-22 fighter plane that nobody needs. Nobody is discussing the B-2 bomber, which the President and Secretary of Defense say we do not need. The Joint Chiefs of Staff say we do not need the B-2 bomber. Everybody says we do not need it. Yet the Republican controlled Congress has the B-2 bomber in this great budget they are trying to cut in order to make it safe for future posterity, not to have debts.

Look at all this through the eyes of ordinary, common sense Americans. Look at it through the eyes of Hans Christian Anderson's little boy in "The Emperor Who Had No Clothes." The emperor was naked, but the whole society was willing to go along and say the emperor was wonderfully dressed. Only one with the innocent eyes of a child, with the common sense of a child, pointed and said "Hey, the emperor is naked."

□ 2115

There are a lot of institutions that are spending a lot of their taxpayers' dollars that are naked. They do not deserve the money. We do need the money in education. We do need the money in health care. We need the money in Medicaid and we need the money in Medicare.

Mr. Speaker, what I am saying is that for a moment let us pause and try to get back on track with education. Let us start with education to get back

on track. Let us do what we have done for the last 10 years, have a bipartisan approach to education. Education Funding Support Day, on November 15, day after tomorrow, is a time for getting together and returning to a focus on education as something that brings us together, as an issue and a program that we very much need. Sometime the camera is going to catch the exhibits, and I would like to make sure the camera does catch the exhibits tonight.

Education Funding Support Day is November 15. We are asking parents, community leaders, union leaders, church leaders, everybody to do something out there at your school. Go to the nearest public school. We do not have to have a central direction for this or wait for flyers or wait for posters. We do not have to wait for anything. It is like the National Night Out Against Crime. Everybody is familiar with the National Night Out Against Crime. On a Tuesday night in August everybody comes out all over the country that night to show they are not afraid to come out to things, to let them know we control the streets and we are, as a society, dedicated to the proposition that we will fight crime. We will fight crime across the board, universal, at every level.

Now, Mr. Speaker, It so happens that since we have begun the National Night Out Against Crime, crime has going down dramatically. There are a lot of reasons we might cite, but one of the basic reasons, I think, is that a unified concern about crime has led to a consistent set of measures, a watchdog approach by the people that make the institutions that are related to crime and the criminal justice system function better. I expect that a National Education Funding Support Day will get the same result.

Mr. Speaker, the result will be that we will follow up on the public opinion polls that show consistently that the public supports education as a No. 1 priority for government expenditures. The polls keep showing it over and over again, but the decision-makers, at every level, keeping ignoring it. They keep ignoring the fact the public wants us to spend more money on education. It is time we stop that.

So we should go out to nearest public school and at our nearest public school we should do something positive for education. Let the fact that people are doing it all over New York City, all over New York State, all over the country, in Washington, DC, everywhere, at the same time, let that send a message to the decision-makers here in Congress, the Republican controlled Congress, the Democrats, who sometimes do not have enough enthusiasm for education also.

Let it send a message to the Governors, who are cutting education programs. Let it send a message to Governor Pataki of New York, who has made dramatic cuts in education and is proposing more cuts. Let it send a message to Mayor Giuliani, who is making

cuts in New York City in education programs. And all he say as an answer to the problem is he wants to control the board of education, control the school system from city hall. And at the same time he is making these cuts and gives the impression there will be some kind of magic, that city hall is operating at so much less money that they can somehow do a different kind of job.

Well, how can they deal with the problem that existed in the New York City schools at the beginning of the school year? Mr. Speaker, 8,000 youngsters in high school and nowhere to sit when school opened. Forty in a class now in most of New York City elementary schools. Forty in a class. Equipment systems in disrepair, where they exists, and most schools have never had science equipment. Ninety percent of the schools have never had a decent computer program. On and on it goes in New York City, and most of the other big cities, in terms of education funding.

Across the country most school boards could use more money, where those that are in good shape understand they need more funding and support for improvement. Those that are falling apart, such as the big city systems, desperately need more help. And the small amount the Federal Government contributes is a small proportion, but the Federal Government sets a tone. When we make cuts in Washington, it gives credence to the cuts that are made at the State level and a new impetus for cuts to be made at the city and local level.

So we need to stop and think about what we are doing, Mr. Speaker. If we, in the midst of this crisis that has been manufactured, lower our voices and stop and reconsider, we might find that education is an issue that can bring us together. We need therapy.

I think Rush Limbaugh last night at the GOPAC meeting was on the right track. He was not cracking as many jokes as he usually cracks. He stepped from the role of being the Speaker's jester to being the Speaker's therapist. And for a moment there, I thought he might be one of the Speaker's new candidates for office, because here is the man who provides the function of comic relief coming to the rescue to calm down the Republican extremist supporters in the room because they have witnessed the uprising of common sense in American public opinion.

Mr. Speaker, American public opinion is expressing a commonsense approach to this budget crisis that has greatly frightened the Republican extremists. I know they pretend to be stalwartly forging ahead, but they understand the implications of the polls. I think they understand what happened last week in the election process. There was several election contests over the country which were clear barometers of what the American people, the voters, the taxpayers, think of the Republican extremist policies. There were

clear indications that the American people reject the Republican extremist policies.

My father gave me an odd name, Mr. Speaker. My name is MAJOR not by accident. My father was a frustrated militarist. He wanted to be a soldier. He wanted to be a soldier in World War I and he was too young. They would not accept him. World War II came along and he had too many children and they would not accept him in World War II. So he took it out on me by naming me MAJOR. But he was an interesting individual. He only went to the sixth grade in school, but he could work all kinds of mathematics problems. He read all the time.

We could not afford many books. We could not afford magazines like *Life* magazine, for example. I do recall *Life* magazine always being in the house because I had an aunt who worked for rich people and she would always bring *Life* magazines home, and my father would always be urging her to stop bringing just back issues but to quickly liberate from the people she was working for, to get him the magazines faster so he could follow what was going on.

He read the newspaper every day and he used to particularly read the parts about the war, as World War II progressed. I was very young but I used to watch him and listen to him as he watched the arrows in the various charts that appeared in the newspaper. They used to have maps and charts and the maps would show the movement of Hitler's army across Europe. And at one time the arrow was always going forward. The invincible German army was moving forward. Always the arrows were jumping forward. And suddenly one day I came home and found a big smile on my father's face and he pointed to the arrows and he said they stopped Hitler's army at Stalingrad. They stopped Hitler's army at Stalingrad.

Stalingrad became the turning point in World War II. Not that the Russian soldiers or the Russian army was so superior to the men and women who invaded on D-Day and pushed the fight across Europe, but it was the turning point because psychologically it let the world know that Hitler's army was not invincible. The German war machine was not invincible.

Last week, Mr. Speaker, on election day, we found that the Republican juggernaut, the blitzkrieg that started in November 1994, is not invincible. It ought to give pause to a lot of people. Common sense should tell us that the overwhelming rejection of Republican policies in Virginia and in Mississippi and Kentucky and a few other places means that the American people have awakened. They are rising up against extremism.

Extremism is foreign to American compassion. It is foreign to the caring majority philosophy. Extremism cannot survive. It cannot exist, and that is being demonstrated. So we should

begin to think about how we can retreat from extremism. We should stop the ratcheting up of extremism, the recklessness that is going on. We should stop and pause and begin to look at a way to turn around.

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, would the gentleman yield for filing a rule?

Mr. OWENS. No, Mr. Speaker, I will not yield.

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. If the gentleman would yield just for 10 seconds, and the gentleman from Georgia, [Mr. KINGSTON] would be very happy to grant the gentleman—

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, does the gentleman have an announcement from the Senate or the President? I cannot yield at this point. I will yield in a few minutes.

Republican extremism is being ratcheted upwards at a time when there is no war; no real crisis. A catastrophe is being manufactured. Earlier speakers have said it. I don't want to be redundant and repeat it. This is a planned crisis. It is a manufactured catastrophe. It is not the President who is being blackmailed, not the President being pushed into the corner, it is the American people who are being blackmailed by the policies that are going forward in this continuing resolution and the debt ceiling legislation.

Mr. Speaker, the American people are being blackmailed. The children and the students are being blackmailed. There is no concern being shown here about education. Not only is there no compassion for the elderly, there is no compassion for the sick. There is no common sense which says we should continue to invest in education. It is a situation which is very serious.

As I said before, Mr. Speaker, in the days before Republican extremism, education was a unifying force, even more so than defense. It was an issue that brought us together. We should return to that. We should remember Republican Ronald Reagan and his pleas that we are a nation at risk and we need to take some unusual measures to turn that around. We ought to remember the pleas of George Bush when he issued America 2000 and said that he wanted to become the education president. We should remember that President Clinton was at that conference in Virginia where President Bush set forth the goals, the six goals for American education. We ought to appreciate the fact that President Clinton has continued the basic policies of President Bush.

The Republicans have chosen in this extremist budget to cut the Goals 2000 legislation. Cut the funding for it. One of the backbones of American Federal education assistance is the title I program. The Republican extremists have chosen to cut title I by \$1.1 billion. That is about one-seventh of the total amount. If the American people are out in their local school district or in their city and town and want to figure out

what these big numbers mean, take the amount of money that they are receiving for title I programs, of title I funding, and reduce it by one-seventh and they will know what the cut of \$1.1 billion in title I programs for next year, they will know what that means for their particular city and town, for their education unit at the local level.

So, Mr. Speaker, they have made cuts which are reducing the investment in education at a time when we need the investment more than ever before. Good schools are a great investment. They are the kind of investment that Americans had the good sense to make a long time ago and they are still very important.

The philosophy of Rush Limbaugh that if an individual does not make it in American society it means something is wrong with them and nobody should worry about them is a philosophy that needs to be rejected. We should not applaud a Rush Limbaugh who says if a person's mother is sick, they will not go out on the street and beg somebody to help them, so why do they ask the government to help them.

The government is a society. A government is a complex mechanism that has been made over the years, over the centuries, and a lot of people have made contributions to this process of making American civilization what it is. In the Vietnam war, which we still say is important, regardless of what we think of the specifics or the objectives or whether it should have gone on so long, American policy said the Vietnam war was important. American policy went forward to the tune of 57,000 American lives and numerous others who were wounded and in various ways suffered as a result of that war. Forty percent of the bodies that came home from Vietnam were minorities.

Forty percent of the bodies were minorities. Many of them were from these same big cities that we claim are wasting our money because they want more money for health care, they want more money for education. Forty percent.

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In all the wars that have ever been fought, who comes out to give the dead soldiers' families millions of dollars? Does Rush Limbaugh deserve to make millions because of some special endowment from God while the soldiers who died to make the country great do not deserve anything? Does Rush Limbaugh deserve more than the inventors who created radio, television?

Does Rush Limbaugh deserve more than the offspring of some of scientists and researchers who make it possible for us to have the technology which makes cable television and television and all these communication media possible and cheaper? Does Rush Limbaugh deserve more than the person out there who does not have the money to buy a frequency in order to be able to own one of these cable stations?

Is there any American who deserves so much more by right of God than another that our society should show no compassion and no concern for those who cannot make it? Society does owe it to itself to develop the abilities and definitely the capacity of everybody. Make an investment in education. Society should do that.

The illogical rationalization, the excuse that the Republicans keep using that they want to make people suffer now in order to have posterity, not have the burden of a debt, they are so compassionate for posterity, for the unborn, for the people who come in 10, 20 years from now, and yet they show no compassion for those living breathing souls that are here right now. Compassion has to be a concern at all times, as I said before.

When you stop and think about the fact that all that we have discovered in the past few decades about the rest of the universe, about the solar system, about the Moon, we have not gone to Mars, but we have sent exploratory ships that have been able to take samplings of the atmosphere of Mars. With the samplings that have been taken of the gases that exist out there in the universe, we have concluded that nowhere in the universe is there any other human life, there can be no life similar to the life here on Earth.

It is very possible with all of these planets and all the new expansive universe that is being discovered, that there are no other human beings, nothing like a human being. In this whole vast universe there is nothing out there that has a heart, nothing out there that can dream, nothing like human beings that we stop and we think that with all these people in China and all these people who are producing and in underdeveloped countries and all the population explosion in South America that there are too many human beings on the face of the Earth. If you were to stop and think about the universe, there are too few of us.

We ought to look at every human being as being sacred. Everything that breathes, that is human, has a heart and a soul is sacred. Everything that breathes has a heart and soul is an opportunity for us in terms of if you develop that soul and that heart properly, it will reinvest in the Earth and in our societies on Earth and we will be able to gain from it. Instead, we have no compassion and we have no common sense, so we do not invest in people first.

We have the Rush Limbaughs of the world laughing at programs that seek to help people who need help. The Rush Limbaughs of the world make fun of senior citizens who have to eat dog food. We have the Rush Limbaughs of the world who think slavery is a great joke. That the greatest crime ever created in history is a joke; 232 years of American slavery is funny. We have that kind of prevailing attitude. That jester becomes the counselor and ther-

apist, for great amounts of money, who support a party that has control of the Congress, the House of Representatives, and the Senate. All of this is going on in America. Look with common sense and ask yourself the question, how can we get out of it. Let us start by making an investment in education.

Stop and think about all the kind of cuts that have been made in education. Let me refresh your memory. Overall, the Republican budget cuts in education cut domestic spending. Republican budget cuts cut domestic spending overall by only 4 percent. But when it comes to education, the appropriations bills related to education, they cut the budget by 16 percent, almost \$4 billion to be more exact, 3.9 some billion, but almost \$4 billion is cut in education. When you go onto job training and other programs related to workers, it is 24 percent.

The Republican extremists have declared war on students, on education, and on workers. Workers who were trained in this transition economy to become more productive, workers who drive the great consumer market that makes it possible for us to have prosperity, they are under attack. The greatest cuts are aimed at them. We have increases in the defense budget, we may have increases even in the CIA budget. We have no way of knowing. We certainly do not have the proper cuts in the CIA budget.

As I said before, of these cuts, 1 billion or 17 percent are aimed at title I. Title I is the biggest Federal program for elementary and secondary school assistance. Title I goes to practically 98 percent of the school districts in America. So we are cutting title I, a small portion of the budget, 98 percent of the school districts of America at a time when they need more help than ever before in education. We have eliminated in the same budget the summer youth employment program. The summer youth employment program provides jobs for 600,000 youth across the country. School systems will tell you it is very important in terms of the work that they do to have those jobs available for their students during the summer.

This House had some alternatives. The Republican majority is not operating in the dark. The Congressional Black Caucus put forward a budget which, like the Republican plan, proposed to eliminate the deficit over 7 years. We did not agree with 7 years. We think that, if you are going to balance the budget, you should take 10 years or longer, but 10 years is reasonable. But we had to do it in 7 years in order to be allowed to bring it, in order to gain access to the floor. We were told you cannot bring a budget unless you balance the budget in 7 years. We did not cut Medicare. We did not cut Medicaid. We increased education by 25 percent, and we still had a balanced budget.

The President has proposed to increase education. Education is one of the few areas that the President proposes to increase the budget at. The President has the support of the business community. The article that appeared in Washington Outlook had a title which said, "Will Republicans Make Clinton the Education President?" This article is about the support that President Clinton is getting from businessmen, from the heads of corporations on this education budget.

They are saying to the President, we would like for the President to forge ahead on Goals 2000. We would like not to turn back the clock on educational reform. We want to continue what Ronald Reagan started. We want to continue what George Bush advanced.

We are all together on this, the corporate executives who make decisions about life and death of America every day in terms of production, in terms of the way we use our resources, they want education to be funded. Many of them are supporting National Education Funding Day on November 18. They understand the good sense of bringing to the attention the fact that education is a top priority. If we cannot read the polls and we do not understand what happened in Virginia, what did Democrats in Virginia do, they made education their primary concern. Identification was no secret. It was a weapon out there on the table, and they ran on an education platform and they pulled a Stalingrad. They showed that the invincible war machine of the Republicans can be defeated. What do these education cuts mean in terms of my home State of New York?

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Florida [Mr. DIAZ-BALART].

WAIVING PROVISIONS OF CLAUSE 4(b) OF RULE XI AGAINST CONSIDERATION OF CERTAIN RESOLUTIONS REPORTED FROM COMMITTEE ON RULES

Mr. DIAZ-BALART, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 104-335) on the resolution (H. Res. 265) waiving a requirement of clause 4(b) of rule XI with respect to consideration of certain resolutions reported from the Committee on Rules, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered printed.

(Mr. OBEY asked and was given permission to proceed out of order for 1 minute.)

LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, I do not know if this would be appropriate the time to ask unanimous consent that I might speak out of order in order to inquire of someone on the other side of the aisle what their plans would be for this evening's schedule?

I yield to the gentleman from Illinois [Mr. HASTERT].

Mr. HASTERT. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the majority leader, the gentleman from Texas [Mr. ARMEY], I would like to advise all Members that